Domestic Tourism in the Country

5946. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to revive interest in domestic tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what facilities Government propose to provide to the domestic tourists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Promotion of domestic tourism is a continuous activity. Department of Tourism in the Central Government has inter-alia taken steps to augment accommodation for domestic tourists by promoting budget accommodation, camping sites, paying guest accommodotion, affordable accommodation at pilgrim centres. Promotion of handicrafts and folk culture has been promoted through financial assisance to craft melas, fairs and festivals.

Tourist Places of Buddhist Interest

5947. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the places of Bhuddhist tourist interest in Orissa, Bihar and other States;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any programme for the development of those places of tourist interests.

(c) if so, the fund provisions made during 8th Plan; and

(d) the state-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Some of the important places of Buddhist tourist interest are—Orissa; Dhauli, Lalitgiri-Udaigiri-Ratnagiri-Khandagiri; Bihar—Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir. Vaishali.; Andhra Pradesh—Nagarjunakonda, Amravati; J&K —Ladakh region; Madhya Pradesh—Sanchi; Maharashtra — Ajanta-Ellora,Aurangabad; Kerala-Bhaja and Kanhari; Caves; Uttar Pradesh—Kushinagar. Piprahawa, Sarnath, Sravasti, the State of Sikkim, etc..

(b) The Government of India alongwith the concerned State Governments are endeavouring to improve and provide additional facilities at the places of Buddhist tourist interest in the country. On receipt of complete proposals from the State Governments, Central financial assistance has been released for construction of tourist complexes, meditation centres, wayside amenities, tourist reception centre, etc. at the various Buddhist Centres. In addition, two projects with the Japanese Government OECF loan are underway for the development of infrastructure in UP and Bihar (Rs. 220.47 crores) and in Ajanta Ellora in Maharashtra at a cost of Rs. 83.11 crores.

(c) and (d) During the 8th Plan, financial assistance extended is as follows:-

	Amount Sanctioned
Andhra Pradesh	39.47
Bihar	40.62
J & K	24.23
Maharashtra	24.25
U. P.	120.85

East-West Airlines financial links with under world nexus

5948. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI had cleared East-West Airlines to have equity in the aviation company but now the Airlines is being asked to reveal the sources of foreign funding: